

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PANAMA 05699 101718Z
ACTION ARA-14

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R 101617Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3114
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 5699

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN
USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO
PANCANAL FOR IO

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PN
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLG SENT ACTION USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY INFO SECSTATE WASHDC
P R 101616Z AUG 77 RPTD YOUR INFO

QUOTE
UNCLAS

SECSTATE FOR ARA/PAF & PAN

EO 11652: N/A

MEDIA REACTION

1. PANAMA CITY.- TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: ALL MEDIA AUGUST
10 CONTINUE TO EXPRESS OPTIMISMO ON POSSIBILITIES OF
CANAL AGREEMENT TODAY. LA ESTRELLA HEADS HERNAN TURNER
PANAMA AP STORY "THERE IS OPTIMISM AT THE NEGOTIATING
TABLE; 'WE ARE ON THE RIGHT ROAD', SAYS BUNKER." SECOND
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TURNER STORY PAGE ONE LA ESTRELLA IS HEADED "NEGOTIATIONS
IN THE FINAL STAGE?"

2. MATUTINO AND CRITICA RUN LOCAL STORIES, PLUS ACAN-EFE
ITEM IN MATUTINO, HEADED "EXPECTATION, CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM
AND SERNEITY IN FACE OF POSSIBLE ACCORDS." CRITICA HEADS
STORY "EXPECTATION FOR FINAL AGREEMENT". ENGLISH STAR AND

HERALD HEADS ITS STORY, "TREATY ACCORD DRAWS CLOSER; CARTER BEING CRITICISED BY SOME LAWMAKERS." MATUTINO RUNS SEPARATE PAGE ONE UPI WASHINGTON ITEM, "CARTER INFORMS AND ASKS BACKING OF CONGRESSMEN."

3. MATUTINO AND CRITICA EDITS AGREE THAT ZERO HOUR IS AT HAND. BOTH ALSO AGREE THAT SOVEREIGNTY, NOT ECONOMIC COMPENSATION, IS MAIN ISSUE. CRITICA SAYS, "IT IS SATISFACTORY THAT PANAMANAIN DEMANDS FOR ECONOMIC COMPENSATION HAVE BEEN DULY WEIGHED BY THE U.S. NEGOTIATORS, AND FIGURES OFFERED APPROACH THOSE WHICH PANAMA HAS CLAIMED WITH AN ACCOMODATING SPIRIT."

4. MATUTINO SAYS, "WE HAVE CONSIDERED...THAT WE CANNOT HOLD BACK THE CLOCK OF THE MAXIMUM REVINDICATION OF THE FATHERLAND FOR A SIMPLE DIFFERENCE IN MATHEMATICAL CALCULATION." MATUTINO CONTINUES THAT THERE WILL BE THOSE WHO CRITICISE THE NEGOTIATORS FOR NOT TAKING BETTER ADVANTAGE AND LACKING PRESSURE. THEY WILL BE WRONG, EDIT SAYS, BECAUSE "WE WILL HAVE GAINED A...DIGNIFIED FATHERLAND AND IF THIS DIGNITY PRE-SUPPOSES A MONETARY SACRIFICE, BLESSED BE THAT SACRIFICE." EDIT ALSO POINTS OUT THAT COMPLETE CONTROL OF CANAL IN WITHIN 25 YEARS WILL BRING MORE MONETARY BENEFITS THAN PUTTING OFF TREATY OVER ECONOMIC ISSUE WOULD GAIN NOW.

5. AFRTS STATION SCN IN ZONE USED USIS/PANCANAL RELEASE ON UNCLASSIFIED

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AUG. 9 AND 10 NEWSCASTS, REFUTING ERRONEOUS REPORTS THAT AT SIGNING OF TREATY PANCANAL COMPANY AND ZONE GOVERNMENT WOULD CEASE TO EXIST. RELEASE OUTLINED ORDER OF EVENTS IN TREATY SIGNING AND RATIFICATION AND SAID NO CHANGES WOULD BE MADE IN ZONE WORKERS' STATUS UNTIL ENTIRE PROCESS IS COMPLETED. ITEM UNQUOTE

JORDEN

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NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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